

Migratory Bird Hunting

Regulations Summary



September 2009
– January 2010

www.wvdnr.gov

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds

- with a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- from or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- from or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- by the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- by driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

CLOSED SEASON

No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING AND HAWKING HOURS

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT

No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

WANTON WASTE

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

TAGGING

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: (a) the hunter's signature, (b) the hunter's address, (c) the total number of birds involved, by species, and (d) the dates such birds were killed. No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

DRESSING

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

NOTICE: The material below is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal Regulations which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations Part 20. In addition to State regulations, the following Federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storing of migratory game birds.

SHIPMENT

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with : (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

IMPORTATION

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP

The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. A "Duck Stamp" is not needed to hunt doves, coots, rails, gallinules, snipe, or woodcock.

DUAL VIOLATION

Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

REFERENCE

Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

STATE REGULATIONS



1.

All licensed hunters (including lifetime and senior citizens) must possess a valid HIP registration card to hunt any migratory game birds.
2.

Youth waterfowl hunting season is open to youth ages 15 and younger for taking ducks, geese, coots, gallinules and mergansers. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult age 21 or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt or possess a firearm.
3.

It is lawful to hunt waterfowl on major waterways, lakes, and reservoirs of the state during the gun season for deer should the waterfowl season be open.
4.

Only nontoxic shot size T or smaller approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used or be in the hunter's possession while hunting waterfowl.
5.

McClintic Wildlife Management Area

a.

Hunting hours for waterfowl within the controlled waterfowl hunting area will be from legal shooting time until 12:00 noon (prevailing time) October 1-14, 2009 (except Sundays).

b.

Waterfowl hunting in the controlled hunt area will be by permit only. This area is designated by signs, and includes Ponds 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 36, 39 and 40. Applications for a permit must be received at the Division of Natural Resources, Route 1, Box 484, Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550, by September 4, 2009.
6.

Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area

a.

Hunting hours for waterfowl will be from legal shooting time until 12:00 noon during the first half of the split waterfowl season October 1-14, 2009 (except Sundays).

b.

Waterfowl hunting will be by permit only. Permits will be issued between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. each day of the hunting season at the area headquarters.

7.

Deed restrictions prohibit all hunting, including waterfowl, at Warden Lake WMA.
- SHOOTING HOURS
- Shooting hours for dove are from 12:00 noon to sunset on opening day of the first segment and from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during the remainder of the season. Shooting hours for rails, snipe, woodcock and waterfowl are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- SUNDAY HUNTING
- Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on Sundays except on privately owned lakes, ponds or impoundments and private land in those counties where Sunday hunting has not been prohibited by local election.
- WEST VIRGINIA WATERFOWL ZONES
- Zone 1

Entire state except Zone 2.

Zone 2

Beginning at the West Virginia state line the eastern boundary extends south along U.S. Route 220 through Keyser, W.Va., to the intersection of U.S. Route 50, and follows U.S. Route 50 to the intersection with state Route 93. The boundary follows state Route 93 south to the intersection with state Route 42 and continues south on state Route 42 to Petersburg. At Petersburg, the boundary follows state Routes 28 and 92 south to Minnehaha Springs and then follows state Route 39 west to U.S. Route 219 and follows 219 south to the intersection of Interstate 64. The southern boundary follows I-64 west to the intersection with U.S. Route 60, and follows route 60 west to the intersection of U.S. Route 19. The western boundary follows Route 19 north to the intersection of I-79, and follows I-79 north to the intersection of I-68. The northern boundary follows I-68 east to the Maryland state line.
- | September 2009 – January 2010 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Species | Area (a) | Open Seasons (All Dates Inclusive) | | Daily Bag limits (b) | Possession Limits (c) | | |
| Mourning Dove
3-way Split Season | Statewide | September 1 – October 10 | | 15 | 30 | | |
| | | October 26 – November 11 | | | | | |
| | | December 21 – January 2 | | | | | |
| Sora and Virginia Rails | Statewide | September 1 – November 7 | | 25 | 25 | | |
| Common Snipe | Statewide | September 1 – December 12 | | 8 | 16 | | |
| Woodcock | Statewide | October 23 – November 21 | | 3 | 6 | | |
| Youth Waterfowl Season | Statewide | September 26 | | (d) | (d) | | |
| Ducks
<i>Split season</i> | Zone 1 | October 1-14 | December 16 – January 30 | 6(e) | 12(e) | | |
| | Zone 2 | October 1-14 | December 9 – January 23 | | | | |
| Gallinules and Coots
<i>Split Season</i> | Zone 1 | October 1-14 | December 16 – January 30 | 15 | 30 | | |
| | Zone 2 | October 1-14 | December 9 – January 23 | | | | |
| Mergansers
<i>Split Season</i> | Zone 1 | October 1-14 | December 16 – January 30 | 5(f) | 10(f) | | |
| | Zone 2 | October 1-14 | December 9 – January 23 | | | | |
| Canada Goose
<i>Split Season</i> | Statewide | September 1-19 | | 5 | 10 | | |
| | Zone 1 | October 1-31 | December 14 – January 31 | 5 | 10 | | |
| | Zone 2 | October 1-31 | December 14 – January 31 | | | | |
| Snow and Blue Geese
<i>Split Season</i> | Zone 1 | October 1-31 | December 14 – January 31 | 5 | 10 | | |
| | Zone 2 | October 1-31 | December 14 – January 31 | | | | |
| Brant | Zone 1 | December 14 – January 31 | | 2 | 4 | | |
| | Zone 2 | December 14 – January 31 | | | | | |
| Swans, King and Clapper Rails, Eiders, Whistling Ducks, Mottled Ducks, and Harlequin Ducks | Statewide | No Open Season | | | | | |
| <div><div>a.</div><div>See map.</div></div> <div><div>b.</div><div>The daily bag limit for falconry hunting is three (3) migratory game birds in the aggregate and the possession limit is six (6) migratory game birds in the aggregate.</div></div> <div><div>c.</div><div>After first day.</div></div> <div><div>d.</div><div>The bag limit for the youth waterfowl day is the same as the daily limit of the regular duck and goose seasons.</div></div> <div><div>e.</div><div>The daily duck bag limit of six (6) can include only one (1) pintail, four (4) long tailed duck (old squaw), two (2) scaup, one (1) black duck, three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, four (4) scoters, one (1) canvasback, and four (4) mallards of which only two (2) may be hens. The duck possession limit can include only twice the daily bag limit.</div></div> <div><div>f.</div><div>The daily merganser bag limit can include only two (2) hooded mergansers, with a possession limit of four (4).</div></div> | | | | | | | |
- NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- Rules and Regulations for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges may be obtained from:
- Ohio River Islands NWR**
3982 Waverly Road • Williamstown, WV 26187 • (304) 375-2923
- Canaan Valley NWR**
HC 70, Box 200 • Davis, WV 26260 • (304) 866-3858
- BANDED BIRDS
- Many game birds are banded with leg bands and other markers annually in North America. Please report any such birds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-800-327-BAND (2263) during regular business hours or online at www.reportband.gov.
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- AVIAN INFLUENZA AND H5N1
- Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has not been found in North America.

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Avian influenza (AI) is an infectious disease of birds. Aquatic birds (including waterfowl) are considered the natural reservoir of this virus. Low pathogenic forms of AI are common in wild bird populations.

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Avian influenza virus usually does not cause disease in waterfowl or shorebirds.

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The highly pathogenic form of this disease—H5N1—has caused mortality in domestic poultry and some wild species of ducks, geese, egrets, herons, and gulls in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Can humans or hunting dogs catch avian influenza from wild birds?**
- There are no known cases of humans or dogs getting avian influenza from wild birds.
- How could H5N1 enter North America?
- H5N1 is most likely to enter through the movement of infected poultry, illegally imported birds or bird products, or migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.
- Should bird hunters be concerned about H5N1?
- Hunters should not be overly concerned at the present time, but hunters are encouraged to stay informed on this issue. Hunters should take the following common sense hygiene precautions while hunting.
1.

Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.

2.

Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.

3.

Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your birds.

4.

Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.

5.

Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.

6.

Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.

7.

Cook game meat thoroughly (165°F) to kill disease organisms.
- How can hunters help?
- Hunters can report die-offs of waterfowl in their area to the nearest WVDNR office or to USDA-WS at 1-866-487-2397. During hunting seasons, biologists may ask hunters for permission to collect samples from harvested waterfowl and other birds. Hunters may also call the USDA-WS number above to provide samples from harvested birds.
- For More Information about Avian Influenza:**
National Wildlife Health Center – www.nwhc.usgs.gov
Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study – www.uga.edu/scwds
USDA/Wildlife Services (M-F 8-4:30) – 877-463-6497

Sunrise and Sunset Time Table

	September		October		November	
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	6:56	7:56	7:22	7:09	6:53	5:27
2	6:57	7:54	7:23	7:08	6:54	5:26
3	6:58	7:53	7:24	7:06	6:55	5:25
4	6:59	7:51	7:25	7:04	6:56	5:23
5	7:00	7:50	7:26	7:03	6:57	5:22
6	7:01	7:48	7:27	7:01	6:58	5:21
7	7:01	7:47	7:28	7:00	7:00	5:20
8	7:02	7:45	7:29	6:58	7:01	5:20
9	7:03	7:44	7:30	6:57	7:02	5:19
10	7:04	7:42	7:31	6:55	7:03	5:18
11	7:05	7:10	7:32	6:54	7:04	5:17
12	7:06	7:39	7:33	6:53	7:05	5:16
13	7:07	7:37	7:34	6:51	7:06	5:15
14	7:07	7:36	7:35	6:50	7:07	5:14
15	7:08	7:34	7:36	6:48	7:08	5:14
16	7:09	7:33	7:37	6:47	7:09	5:13
17	7:10	7:31	7:38	6:45	7:10	5:12
18	7:11	7:29	7:39	6:44	7:11	5:12
19	7:12	7:28	7:40	6:43	7:13	5:11
20	7:13	7:26	7:41	6:41	7:14	5:11
21	7:14	7:25	7:42	6:40	7:15	5:10
22	7:14	7:23	7:43	6:39	7:16	5:09
23	7:15	7:22	7:44	6:37	7:17	5:09
24	7:16	7:20	7:45	6:36	7:18	5:09
25	7:17	7:18	7:46	6:35	7:19	5:08
26	7:18	7:17	7:47	6:34	7:20	5:08
27	7:19	7:15	7:48	6:32	7:21	5:07
28	7:20	7:14	7:49	6:31	7:22	5:07
29	7:21	7:12	7:50	6:30	7:23	5:07
30	7:22	7:11	7:51	6:29	7:24	5:07
31			7:52	6:28		

	December		January	
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1	7:25	5:06	7:44	5:17
2	7:26	5:06	7:44	5:18
3	7:27	5:06	7:44	5:19
4	7:28	5:06	7:44	5:20
5	7:29	5:06	7:44	5:20
6	7:29	5:06	7:44	5:21
7	7:30	5:06	7:44	5:22
8	7:31	5:06	7:44	5:23
9	7:32	5:06	7:44	5:24
10	7:33	5:06	7:43	5:25
11	7:34	5:06	7:43	5:25
12	7:34	5:06	7:43	5:26
13	7:35	5:07	7:43	5:27
14	7:36	5:07	7:42	5:28
15	7:36	5:07	7:42	5:29
16	7:37	5:07	7:42	5:30
17	7:38	5:07	7:41	5:31
18	7:39	5:08	7:41	5:32
19	7:39	5:08	7:40	5:34
20	7:40	5:09	7:40	5:35
21	7:40	5:09	7:39	5:36
22	7:41	5:10	7:39	5:37
23	7:41	5:10	7:38	5:38
24	7:41	5:11	7:38	5:39
25	7:42	5:11	7:37	5:40
26	7:42	5:12	7:36	5:41
27	7:42	5:12	7:36	5:42
28	7:43	5:13	7:35	5:44
29	7:43	5:14	7:34	5:45
30	7:43	5:15	7:33	5:46
31	7:43	5:15	7:32	5:47

NOTE:

To compensate for time variations, corrections indicated for the following cities should be added or subtracted (as indicated) to both sunrise and sunset time.

Minutes

Grafton	- 5
Grantsville	- 1
Hurricane	+ 1
Huttonsville	- 6
Keyser	- 9
Logan	- 1
Marlinton	- 7
Martinsburg	- 15
Morgantown	- 5
Princeton	- 5
Romney	- 12
Sistersville	- 1

DISTRICT OFFICES

Main Office

324 Fourth Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
304.558.2771
Law Enforcement:
304.558.2784

District 1

1110 Railroad Street
Farmington, WV 26571
304.825.6787

District 2

1 Depot Street
Romney, WV 26757
304.822.3551

District 3

Box 38
French Creek, WV 26218
304.924.6211
Law Enforcement:
304.637.0245

District 4

2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive
Beckley, WV 25801-8320
304.256.6947

District 5

1163 Wildlife Road
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304.675.0871
Law Enforcement:
304.759.0703

District 6

2311 Ohio Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304.420.4550

Operations Center

P.O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241
304.637.0245



West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Hunting and Fishing License Unit

324 Fourth Avenue
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

304.558.2758
customerservice@wvdnr.gov